

## BENTON CATTLE THIEF AND MURDERER, SAYS VILLA; STUBBORNLY REFUSES TO LET VICTIM'S CORPSE TELL TALE

### REBEL CHIEF TAKES HOT SHOT AT "SCANDALOUS" AMERICAN PRESS

Executed British Subject Killed Four Men and Stole 1,000 Head of Cattle, Remarkable Charge Made by Constitutionalist Commander Who Bitterly Resents Overwhelming Avalanche of Denunciation for Deed; Benton Attempted to Commit Cowardly Assassination, Alleges General Pancho.

### REFUSAL TO DISCLOSE LAST RESTING PLACE OF BODY SERVES TO INTENSIFY ANGRY SUSPICIONS

[By Leased Wire to Evening Herald.] Juarez, Mexico, Feb. 24.—A telegram in which General Villa at Chihuahua charges the late William S. Benton with being a cattle thief and having committed four murders was received at military headquarters here this afternoon. It follows: "I expected the scandalous American press to attack me about the execution of Benton. But I did not have any other remedy to avoid new attempts of the foreign Huertistas, who, protected by the flag of their country believe that they are authorized to commit the greatest of crimes. Benton was all his life a criminal of the worst kind. In the times of the Terrazas and Creel, protected by these men, he killed more than four men without any provocation whatever. Then after the taking of Chihuahua, in combination with the above named individuals, and according to his own confession, he appropriated more than 1,000 head of cattle which did not belong to him and, furthermore, the day he came to see me, he attempted to cowardly assassinate me. Fortunately, I anticipated his movement and disarmed him. All these motives, and especially the last named one, forced me to act severely against Benton without taking into consideration the fact that he was a foreigner, for there are crimes which I do not wish to leave unpunished. Therefore, he was executed with all justice and I am disposed to give account of the execution to the entire world. Please make the above declaration to Mr. Carothers and to the American press."

**VILLA STUBBORNLY REFUSES TO TELL WHAT BECAME OF BODY OF BENTON**  
El Paso, Tex., Feb. 24.—The attempt of the Mexican rebels to establish that William S. Benton, the Scottish ranchman, recently executed was a Mexican citizen, is based on a report that he once held some minor office while President Porfirio Diaz was in power. This statement was made today at Juarez by Federico Gonzalez Garza, counselor to the commander of the garrison. Relatives here of Benton say that the deeds to his Mexican property refer to him as a British subject and that he was always careful there should be no doubt on this point. In the meanwhile the demand of the state department at Washington for the handing over of the body of Benton has been met with silence. General Villa has received telegrams not only from many cities in the United States but from London, Paris and Berlin, asking for an explanation of the manner of Benton's death. All the replies sent to inquirers have been the same story of a court-martial and execution. The finding in the Imperial valley of California of flower Laurence, the Englishman, who was reported missing in Mexico, leads to the belief here that his alleged companion, Curtis, is also safe in the United States. No trace, however, of Harry Campbell for whom the American authorities were looking has been revealed. An interview printed in the El Paso Times today quotes Villa at Chihuahua, as saying that he gave Guaymas Bauch, an American citizen, his liberty at Juarez last Thursday. This statement contradicts the official information given to Thomas D. Edwards, American consul, by General Villa, that Bauch had been taken to Chihuahua, where his case was being reviewed. It was learned today that Villa's subordinates are somewhat perturbed at the failure of their chief to grant permission for the removal of Benton's body and one of them from Juarez. It is promised, will go to Chihuahua to point out to Villa the suspicious which his refusal has aroused on the American side. At Juarez officials profess to believe that Villa's attitude is a mere matter of caprice or stubborn pride which friendly argument can overcome. So far Americans do not know even the location of the grave. The state department has instructed Thomas D. Edwards, consul at Juarez, to ascertain where it is but so far he has had no success.

**BRITISH GOVERNMENT ASKS CLEAR FIELD FOR INVESTIGATION OF CASE OF BENTON**  
London, Feb. 24.—The British government has invoked the good offices of the United States government to urge that there shall be no interference by General Villa with its investigation into the death of W. S. Benton and the reported disappearance of two Englishmen named Laurence and Curtis. The investigation is to be made by Charles Percival, British consul at Galveston, who has been ordered to Juarez. Consul Percival has been instructed to supply the most complete reports obtainable. Sir Edward Grey, British foreign secretary, told the house of commons today that Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, British ambassador at Washington has been instructed to inform the United States government that Great Britain considered it essential for a British consul to visit the spot where Benton was killed. Consul Percival was instructed to ask the United States government, as Great Britain had no means of communicating with General Villa, to instruct the United States consul at Juarez to inform General Villa and to request an assurance that the British consul should not be interfered with. Sir Edward Grey read a communication from the state department at Washington to Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, which the British ambassador cabled to the foreign office. It follows: "The state department desires to advise the British embassy that instructions have been sent heretofore to the American consul at Juarez to make a most searching inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of William S. Benton. The consul has been instructed to make every effort to secure the examination and examination of the body of the deceased, to take the statements of any and all the witnesses whom he can find to employ in his investigations medical and legal assistance as far as may be desirable and to do everything in his power to elicit the facts." The comprehensiveness of the American government's investigations called forth cheers in the house of commons. Sir Edward Grey added that no reply had been received to his communication to Consul Percival.

**PLAN TO NATIONALIZE ALL OIL LANDS IN MEXICO**  
Mexico City, Feb. 24.—A plan for the nationalizing of all the oil lands in Mexico is to be forced through the next Mexican congress which convenes on April first, according to an admission made today by Querido Moreno, the head of the new cabinet post of commerce and industry. Senator Melchor says he presented

### United States Must Fish or Cut Bait

America Must Defend Foreign Interests Or Let George Do It, Significant Utterance of British Newspaper.

[By Leased Wire to Evening Herald.] London, Feb. 24.—Sharp comment is made by the Manchester Guardian today on Sir Edward Grey's statement in the house of commons yesterday in regard to the killing of W. S. Benton at Juarez by General Villa. The newspaper asks: "Is it not more playing with words to say that, in such cases, the United States has no responsibility? I that were so, the Monroe Doctrine would be a mere instrument of international anarchy. If we are not responsible, then the United States is. We certainly do not wish to drive the United States government to intervention, but it cannot deny to these powers the right of defending their interests and at the same time refuse to defend them."

the plan while he was a member of the chamber of deputies. The report is current here that it is the intention of the federal government to transfer the oil lands to Lord Cowdray for \$5,000,000 gold after they have been nationalized.

### NO TRACE FOUND OF MISSING GUSTAVE BAUCH

Chihuahua, Mex., Feb. 24.—In reply to inquiries made at the penitentiary here today by Marion Letcher, the American consul, and the Associated Press, it was stated that Gustave Bauch, the American reported missing, had never been there. At the city hall the American consul also failed to find any trace of the missing man.

### SAYS PRESIDENT WILSON HAS MADE HIS CHOICE

Mexico City, Feb. 24.—Commenting on the killing of Benton, El Diario in an editorial article today says: "Whatever may have been the evil origin attributed to the present government, it is at least 'de facto' government which secured its power in accordance with our laws from congress and with all the formalities. Between this government and the rebellion with its sinister and tragic aggression on life and property, President Wilson has chosen the latter." The article then reviews the support given to the rebels and the opposition to General Huerta and adds: "Now foreigners are horrified by Villa's act and are realizing that they are at the mercy of the man canonized by the columns of the north."

## BRITAIN STANDS PAT; NO SUPPORT FOR SHOW

Failure Meets Effort to Get Government to Participate in Panama-Pacific Exposition.

### FOREIGN SECRETARY TARGET OF CRITICISM

[By Leased Wire to Evening Herald.] London, Feb. 24.—All efforts to move the British government to reconsider its decision not to participate officially in the Panama-Pacific exposition at San Francisco have failed. Sir Edward Grey, foreign secretary, said today in the house of commons that the government could not modify its previous decision. He concluded: "I am very much aware of the immense importance of the good will of the United States. We attach the greatest importance to it and I hope that in all large questions of policy we have made it quite apparent how much value we do attach to it." Arthur Lynch, an Irish nationalist member, who had been catechizing the foreign secretary, replied: "If you attach so much importance to the good will of the United States, why don't you take better means to cultivate it?" Alaskan Railroad Bill Postponed. Washington, Feb. 24.—Although house and senate conferees were prepared today to smooth out differences between the two houses in the Alaskan railroad bill, the matter was postponed until tomorrow.

## HUERTA FACTION HANGS A CITIZEN OF U.S.

Mexican Federals Give Short Shrift to Clemente Vergara, in Spite of Efforts of American Authorities.

### CAPTURED AND CARRIED OVER THE BORDER

[By Leased Wire to Evening Herald.] LAREDO, TEXAS, FEB. 24.—CLEMENTE VERGARA, AN AMERICAN CITIZEN CAPTURED AND CARRIED INTO MEXICO RECENTLY BY MEXICAN FEDERALISTS, WAS HANGED TODAY AFTER HIS CAPTURE, ACCORDING TO ADVICES BROUGHT HERE TODAY FROM JUJALGO, MEXICO. VERGARA HAD BEEN ORDERED RELEASED BY THE FEDERAL COMMANDER AT PIEDRAS NEGRAS AS THE RESULT OF REPRESENTATIONS IN HIS BEHALF OF AMERICAN AUTHORITIES.

## QUEEN CITY GETS SEVERE SHOCK

Warrants Issued for Four Prominent Cincinnatians on Ugly Charge Preferred by Young Girl.

[By Leased Wire to Evening Herald.] Cincinnati, Feb. 24.—Cincinnati's higher social circles were startled today when warrants in the municipal court were issued for four prominent men here, charging them with contributing to the delinquency of a 16-year-old girl. The men are Col. Brent Arnold, general freight agent and superintendent of terminals of the Louisville and Nashville railroad; Hugh Goldsmith, a manufacturer; Isaac Newton Fox, a manufacturer; and C. B. Young, representative of a New York firm with headquarters in Louisville. The girl for the last two weeks has been in charge of juvenile court officers.

### NEGRO ACCESSORY IN MARY PHAGAN MURDER

[By Leased Wire to Evening Herald.] Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 24.—James Conley, negro factory sweeper, was found guilty today of being an accessory after the fact to the murder of Mary Phagan, aged 14. He was sentenced to twelve months on a convict farm.

### \$15,000,000 AEROPLANE FLEET PROPOSED BY ENTHUSIASTIC FLORIDIAN

[By Leased Wire to Evening Herald.] Washington, Feb. 25.—A \$15,000,000 aeroplane fleet was proposed in a bill today by Representative L. R. Bogle of Florida. He painted a picture of cities being destroyed by bombs from flying air craft and compared the foreign air fleets with that of the United States, which he said was composed of "twelve obsolete man-killing aeroplanes."

### Masked Robbers Crack Safe; Big Loot

Audacious Yeggs Overpower Baltimore Watchman, Steal Tobacco Pipes and Get Off With \$6,000.

[By Leased Wire to Evening Herald.] Baltimore, Md., Feb. 24.—Three masked robbers entered the Academy of Music in North Howard street last night, overpowered the watchman, blew open the office safe and got away with between \$5,000 and \$6,000 leaving the watchman tied to a post in the auditorium. Afterwards the cracksmen broke into a cigar store adjoining the theater and stole a number of expensive pipes. The robbers left no clue.

## WHITE SLAVE ACT CONSTITUTIONAL COURT RULES

Federal Law Again Upheld by Supreme Tribunal, Acting on Wilson Case From Chicago.

### OTHER DECISIONS HANDED DOWN TODAY

[By Leased Wire to Evening Herald.] Chicago, Feb. 24.—The constitutionality of the federal white slave law was again upheld today by the supreme court in the Wilson case from Chicago. The point whether the law is limited to commercial vice was not involved.

### CHICAGO CASE RULED ON BY THE COURT

Chicago, Feb. 24.—Zoe and Charles Wilson, alias Willard, were found guilty December 16, 1911, in the United States district court here of transporting Florenz Blum and Frances Vance from Milwaukee to Chicago for immoral purposes. The Wilsons were sentenced to three years' penal servitude each. The case was fought on appeal up to the United States supreme court.

**Other Decisions.**—The tag on the use of foreign built yachts imposed upon American citizens by the old Payne-Aldrich tariff act was upheld as constitutional today by the supreme court. The Oklahoma statute of 1908, in effect forbidding foreign corporations doing business in that state, from removing suits against them from state to federal courts in that jurisdiction was stricken down as unconstitutional by the supreme court. The supreme court today sent the so-called bleach bill back to the district court for a new trial.

### HAYTI GOVERNMENT TROOPS WIN TOWN

[By Leased Wire to Evening Herald.] Cape Haitien, Feb. 24.—The government troops today recaptured from the rebels the town of Trou, south of Libertite. The victorious army continued its march toward Gonaives, where the rebels under Senator Basileur Theodore took refuge when they fled from Cap-Haitien. At the same time a detachment of government troops commanded by General Charles Faurer proceeded by sea to attack Port-au-Prince.

### FIRST SNOW OF SEASON FALLS IN EL PASO

[By Leased Wire to Evening Herald.] El Paso, Tex., Feb. 24.—Snow began falling here at midnight and continued throughout the morning. It was the first snow of the winter. Many fruit trees are in bloom and as the temperature has not yet dropped to freezing there is hope that the fruit is not damaged.

### MARQUARD TO JOIN NEW YORKS NEXT WEEK

[By Leased Wire to Evening Herald.] Marlin, Tex., Feb. 24.—Pitcher Ruben Marquard will join the New York Nationals training squad here early next week, according to Catcher Meyers, who arrived last night.

**Editor Withdraws.**—Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 24.—Announcement today that Clark Howell, editor of the Atlanta Constitution, had eliminated consideration of his name as a successor to the late Senator Bacon made it practically certain that Governor John M. Slaton would appoint a south Georgia man to the office.

## FIGHT OVER RIGHT TO PROBE POLITICS WARM IN TRINIDAD

### LUCIUS DILLS OF ROSWELL GETS BIG PLUM

Appointed Surveyor General of New Mexico; Registers and Receivers of Land Offices Also Named Today.

[By Leased Wire to Evening Herald.] Washington, Feb. 24.—President Wilson today made these nominations: Associate justice of the supreme court of Porto Rico, Harvey M. Hutchinson, of Porto Rico; Surveyor general of New Mexico, Lucius Dills of Roswell; Registers of land offices: John Burnside of Silver City; at Las Cruces; Emmett Patton of Hagerman; at Roswell; Rome P. Donohoe of Tucuman, at Tucuman; Receivers of public monies: S. P. Ascarate of Las Cruces; at Las Cruces; W. G. Cowan of Carlsbad; at Roswell; Felipe Sanchez of Buena Vista, at Tucuman.

## ASKS COMMISSION TO REOPEN CASE OF ALLOWANCES

United States Steel Corporation Protests Against Ruling Directed Against Short Lines Serving Industries.

[By Leased Wire to Evening Herald.] Washington, Feb. 24.—Assuming that trunk line railroads are arranging to immediately discontinue through rates with the Union railroad company, the Newburgh & South Shore railway company and the Lake Terminal Railroad company, subsidiaries of the United States Steel corporation, attorneys for the corporation today asked the interstate commerce commission to reopen the matter of allowances to short lines of railroad serving industries. The brief filed with the commission contends that in the transportation of iron and steel products and of raw materials, including coke and coal, it had been the general custom from the beginning of the industry for the carriers to spot cars within the industry where they are to be loaded or unloaded and take each car when loaded or unloaded to the main line and that for the rates on these commodities have been continuous, constructed upon the basis of cost of such services. The petitioners contend that the commission could not have found that the complainant railroads are plant facilities. The general effect of the report of the commission, if carried into effect, is held, will be to unduly impose upon steel industries the cost of operating terminal facilities and to use line carriers to discriminate against industries located along terminal railroads. The commission is asked to make an order preventing trunk lines from carrying out the proposed discontinuance of through rates pending a rehearing.

### DEMORRIS SUSTAINED IN TUNNEL CASE

Denver, Feb. 24.—Judge George W. Allen of the district court, today sustained a demurrer by the city to the application for an injunction filed by Daniel E. Lord against the issuance of bonds for the James Peak tunnel. The court held that the city had the right to vote bonds for such purpose.

### TODAY IN CONGRESS

**SENATE.**—Met at noon. Conference on the Alaska railroad bill were again postponed. Mr. Norris' resolution for certain information on the New Haven reorganization was warmly debated. **HOUSE.**—Met at noon. Credit deficiency bill again debated. Hearing on the LaFollette season's bill before commerce committee. River and harbors bill, carrying \$42,000,000, reported from committee. Representative Green gave notice of his intention to speak on resolution for investigating of Black Island railroad financial affairs.

## MOST DRAMATIC SCENES OF HEARING STAGED

Committee Investigating Strike Finally Rules Evidence on Alleged Political Corruption Is Admissible.

### ATTORNEYS ENGAGE IN WORDY BATTLE

Means Broadening of Scope of Inquiry to Include Methods of Holding Local and State Elections.

### STATE RIGHTS ARE INJECTED INTO CASE

Personalities Inextricably Intertwined With Political Activities Which Become Bone of Contention.

[By Leased Wire to Evening Herald.] Trinidad, Colo., Feb. 24.—A clash over the right of a congressional committee to inquire into charges of corruption in local and state elections, and involving far reaching issues of state and federal jurisdiction, led today to the most dramatic scenes thus far witnessed in the investigation of the Colorado coal miners' strike. At the end of two hours of wrangling, in the course of which the committee once completely reversed its ruling on admissibility of evidence relating to alleged political corruption in Las Animas and Huertano counties, the morning session was adjourned with the understanding that such evidence, in a limited amount and held strictly to matters within the personal knowledge of the witnesses, would be heard during the afternoon. The committee announced that during the luncheon recess it would formulate regulations under which the evidence would be received. The final ruling of the committee came after impassioned pleas by E. P. Costigan, attorney for the United Mine Workers, and John B. Lawson and John McLennan, strike leaders. Mr. Costigan previously had hotly denied an imputation by Fred Herington of counsel for the mine operators that he was actuated by political motives. Mr. Costigan having been the candidate of the Progressive party for governor in the election of 1912. The clash was opened early in the morning session when the strikers put on the stand W. A. Garner, a civil war veteran and Colorado pioneer, to testify regarding charges of political corruption. There was an immediate protest by counsel for the mine owners. A sharp skirmish between the attorneys ended in the announcement that the committee would hold a five-minute executive session to decide as to the admissibility of the evidence. The five-minute caucus lasted a half hour. At its conclusion the committee filed into the room. Chairman Foster announced that the investigators had decided that the charges of corruption in state and county elections were not within the subjects which the committee was authorized to examine, but that any charges of manipulation in connection with the selection of juries and the prosecution of court cases would be heard. Instantly Mr. Costigan rose on his feet. "I wish to make a formal statement to the committee," he announced. "A very grave charge has been made in this room, suggesting that the introduction of evidence relating to political conditions is the result of personal matters. I am authorized by the United Mine Workers of America to state to this committee that in their opinion the political activity of the coal operators was among the most important causes of the strike. If elections are conducted in such a manner that men striving for equality of opportunity are denied their legitimate aims, that certainly is a cause for the strike. "We believe that a protest should respectfully be entered against the denial of a right to show this situation. We assure the committee that there is no partisan politics in this investigation. We are willing to let the committee itself ask all the questions of these witnesses and conduct the entire examination. So important do we consider this phase of the subject that if the committee will permit us to call these witnesses we will agree to suspend further testimony so far as the examination in the city of